



WEARE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Christine Hague, Director

Weare Public Library Trustees Emergency Flood Meeting Accepted as Amended

April 22, 2007

Present: Susan Morin and Terri Wahnowsky, Trustees; Paul Marsh, Alternate Trustee; Christine Hague, Director; Heleen Kurk and Tom Clow, Selectmen

After a tour of the flood damaged Children's Library, the meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm.

History

Hague prepared an agenda and started with a history of the flood. On the morning of Monday, April 16, she found water about an inch and a half deep at the bottom of the stairs and all the way through the Children's Library to the lip of the doorway to the Sawyer Room. Firemen came and helped move books out of harm's way. Hague immediately filed an insurance report with Primex. They told her to find the source of moisture. Hague called Service Master.

On Tuesday, April 17, about 20 volunteers helped Hague box and move books. Some went into the Sawyer Room, some went upstairs and the rest into a U-Haul truck Hague rented to transport the books to the town office.

Wed., April 18, Service Master started removing carpets and sheetrock walls that had gotten wet. Chip Meany came to assess the damage, as did an insurance adjuster. Insurance will cover replacement and restoration, nothing more. Insurance adjuster is recommending a new drain system. Kurk asked if drain system is not done and further flooding occurs, will insurance cover damage? Hague said adjuster couldn't answer – answer will have to come from Primex.

Comments

Chip Meany agrees building is substandard. A Facilities Study Committee concluded building was beyond repair in 2005. Committee Member Don Burke said, "Too much needed, should be torn down." Meany saw no evidence of proper drainage and fill under foundation from construction in 1992. Water could be coming up from the ground. Preliminary estimates from \$20K to \$50K for drainage repair.

Short-Term Needs

Collection and Circulation

No children's collection to offer public, which is the biggest draw to the Library. Hague has been explaining problem to patrons and has assembled a collage of photos of the damage. People are sympathetic and some have expressed desire to help. Hague would like to put them to work doing something; a team of volunteers is key to needs assessment and fundraising and she doesn't want to lose them.

Clow asked if Sawyer room could be used for temporary Children's Library. Hague reported room was donated with specific rules for its use as a public meeting room. Temp. space for children's books would eliminate purpose. Not enough room for entire collection anyway.

Staff Scheduling

Hague is working hard to keep everyone working. Without a Children's Library, this effort won't last forever. She's trying to keep staff from going to unemployment.

Summer Reading

Cora Ciampi is doubtful if Summer Reading Program can run without a facility. Hague is looking for suggestions. This is the busiest time of year for the Library and a worthwhile program for its patrons. Hague reported the librarian in Henniker is offering their facility. This would be hard to do without money or reciprocity. The school library was also suggested. This too would be difficult in keeping inventory separate. Clow asked if Children's Library had ever flooded before. Hague said no. Kurk offered that flooding could have happened because the ground was frozen and water had no where to go but up, intimating it may not be an issue in the summer.

Hague handed out a diagram of the lower level with square footage and posed the question: Do we put the building back together and wait for the next flood? Morin thinks this is not a good idea if other options are available. Marsh agrees and suggests possible Book Mobile or trailer. Morin thinks maybe John Stark might have purchased some trailers when they needed extra classrooms. Kurk suggests contacting FEMA person Paul King for trailer availability. Hague expressed concern for safety of children in a trailer atmosphere. Also, location would be important due to lack of lavatories. Kurk asked if NH Library Assn. could be of any help. Hague agreed to call them. Clow asked if elementary or middle school might afford a classroom for temporary use over the summer.

Mid-Term Needs

Clow said we need to find the problem before we start fixing things so we don't waste resources fixing the wrong thing. Hague said Chip Meany is recommending an engineer to decipher where the problem is. Marsh motioned to authorize Director Christine Hague to seek an engineer's recommendation regarding the existing condition of soils and structure that led to flooding of basement and propose an appropriate remedy. Wahnowsky seconded the motion. Kurk said this sounds like something that could come out of Building Maintenance & Repair Capital Reserve Fund. Once the cost of the engineer has been determined, the Trustees need to request the funds from the Board of Selectmen to hire the engineer.

Hague would like to let volunteers fundraise so people feel they are helping.

Clow stated he thinks if Sawyer Room were used for temporary housing of Children's Library that no one would have a problem with that. Hague reported that in addition to the Sawyer Room having a full schedule of meetings booked well into the future, the air quality in there is not one she would like to subject staff to on a full-time basis. The humid conditions would not be ideal for the books either.

BOT to meet Saturday, April 28 at 10 AM to compose request for funds for engineer from BOS at their meeting on Monday, April 30.

To Do List for Director Hague

- Contact Paul King, FEMA, regarding trailer
- Contact JSHS regarding trailer(s)
- Cost of engineer
- Elementary School/Middle School Classrooms
- Contact NH Library Assn. for help

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Wahnowsky
Secretary